

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT BLIGHT ELIMINATION AND BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (CDBG-BEBR)

The Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment Program (CDBG-BEBR) program is designed to assist communities with assessing or remediating the environmental contamination of an abandoned, idle or underused industrial or commercial facility or site in a blighted area. Critical to obtaining a grant is a redevelopment plan that describes how the property will be reused for commercial or industrial development that results in jobs and private investment in the community.

ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS

An eligible applicant is a general purpose unit of government with a population less than 50,000 that is not enrolled in the Community Development Block Grant Entitlement Program. This includes any county, other than Dane, Milwaukee, or Waukesha Counties.

ELIGIBLE PROJECTS

Environmental site assessments (ESA), commonly known as Phase I, II or III site assessments, or the environmental remediation of sites which are blighted, subject to the following conditions:

- The applicant has a redevelopment plan for the property.
- The project will result in the redevelopment of the brownfield site for a taxable reuse.
- The applicant will repay to the Department any funds that are loaned to a nonprofit or a business.
- The applicant commits to pursue recovery of environmental remediation costs from responsible parties and to reimburse the department a proportional share of the CDBG funds.
- The applicant demonstrates financial need and demonstrates that the project is the best alternative for the project site.
- The community provides at least 25 percent of the public facility project funding.

APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS

- The maximum award is \$100,000 for environmental assessments and \$500,000 for environmental remediation projects.
- A pre-application meeting is held with Commerce staff to discuss the potential application.
- An application is completed after staff provides comment and review.
- Funding decisions are made based upon the submitted application and are contingent upon availability of funds.
- Terms and conditions for any funds loaned or granted to a business or nonprofit corporation by the applicant will be agreed upon by the Department prior to the release of funds.
- The applicant is responsible for administering the award. It must enter into a redevelopment agreement with all other interested parties, including the land owner, any businesses and any state or federal agency which is involved in the cleanup of the site, and ensure compliance with Federal requirements such as environmental review and Davis-Bacon wage issues.

To arrange for a pre-application meeting, call:

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